**![A picture containing text, clipart

Description automatically generated]()![A drawing of a person

Description automatically generated]()**

**Multimorbidity and Knowledge Architectures: An Interdisciplinary Global Health Collaboration**

Principal Investigator: Justin Dixon (PhD)

Phone number: +263 2424 700607

**What you should know about this research study:**

1. We give you this information sheet so that you may read about the purpose, risks, and benefits of this research study.
2. The main goal of research studies is to gain knowledge that may help future patients.
3. You have the right to refuse to take part, or agree to take part now and change your mind later.
4. Whatever you decide, it will not affect your regular care.
5. Please consider this consent form carefully. Ask any questions before you make a decision. Your participation is voluntary.

**Introduction**

We would like to invite you to take part in a research study about people living with multiple illnesses, sometimes called ‘multimorbidity’. We have asked you to take part because you are a health professional working at a facility that we would like to survey as part of our research.

The study will be carried out by researchers from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), UK, and the Organisation for Public Health Interventions and Development (OPHID). The study is funded by a Research Fellowship in Humanities and Social Science awarded by the Wellcome Trust, UK.

**Purpose of this study**

Multimorbidity is increasing globally, including in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) such as Zimbabwe. Multimorbidity is challenging to address, because health research, care and policy have mainly been based on the treatment of single diseases. This study seeks to understand the challenges of living with and providing care for multimorbidity and to work with participants in our research to design a strategy for better responding to multimorbidity in the future. We will invite approximately 200 people to take part in our study. This includes people working on multimorbidity and related topics around the world, as well as patients, families, healthcare professionals, researchers and policymakers in Zimbabwe.

**Procedures and Duration**

If you agree to take part, we will of the study team will conduct a survey with you about your healthcare facility. The survey will include general questions about the services provided by the facility, as well as more specific questions about how you manage non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes and hypertension. We will further ask you about the diagnosis and management of patients living with multiple conditions at once. The survey will take approximately 90 to 120 minutes to complete.

**Are there any possible risks if I take part?**

There are no direct risks associated with taking part in this study. However, due to the ongoing COVID-19 epidemic, personal protective equipment and hand sanitizer will be made available during study activities, and social distancing rules will be observed.

**Benefits**

There are no direct benefits to you if you choose to take part. However, you may derive benefit from knowing that this study will contribute towards improved management of multimorbidity. Where travel is needed for the purposes of taking part in study activities, you will be reimbursed money ($5) for transport.

**Confidentiality**

All raw data will be stored on a password-protected file and will be shared with the research team only. We will use the information that you share about your facility in an anonymised form (without using your name or identifying features) in research outputs. Under some circumstances, the Medical Research Council of Zimbabwe and Research Council of Zimbabwe may need to review participants’ records for compliance audits.

**Data Archiving**

At the end of the project, data that can be anonymised fully to protect participants’ identities will be archived through the UK Data Service (UKDS), a reputable and widely recognised data repository. Details of how to access the data will be published with each study publication, and access will be granted to bona fide research users and beneficiaries based on a case-by-case request and approval process.

**Ethical Review**

All research involving human participants is looked at by an independent group of people, called a Research Ethics Committee, to protect your interests. This study has been reviewed and given favourable opinion by The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine Research Ethics Committee (Ref 26469). The Joint Research Ethics Committee for the University of Zimbabwe College of Health Sciences and The Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals (Ref X) and the Medical Research Council of Zimbabwe (Ref X) have also reviewed the study and have approved the study to be conducted.

**Who is organising and funding this study?**

This study is funded by the Wellcome Trust, United Kingdom. London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine is the sponsor for the research, and they have full responsibility for the project including the collection, storage and analysis of your information.

**Voluntary participation**

Participation in this study is voluntary. If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw your consent and to discontinue participation at any time without penalty.

**Offer to answer questions**

Before you sign this form, please ask any questions on any aspect of this study that is unclear to you. You may take as much time as necessary to think it over.

**AUTHORIZATION**

YOU ARE MAKING A DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY. YOUR SIGNATURE INDICATES THAT YOU HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ABOVE, HAVE HAD ALL YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED, AND HAVE DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Research Participant Signature (or Thumb Print\*) Date

(please print) of participant

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Staff Obtaining Consent Signature of staff Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Witness\* Signature of witness\* Date

(\*Only required if participant is unable to read or write)

**YOU WILL BE OFFERED A COPY OF THIS CONSENT FORM TO KEEP.**

If you have any questions concerning this study or consent form beyond those answered by the investigator, including questions about the research, your rights as a research participant or research-related injuries; or if you feel that you have been treated unfairly and would like to talk to someone other than a member of the research team, please feel free to contact the Medical Research Council of Zimbabwe (MRCZ) by telephone on 0242791193 or 08644073772. The MRCZ Offices are located at the following address: 20 Cambridge Road, Avondale, Harare.